

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 994 115 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
19.04.2000 Bulletin 2000/16

(51) Int Cl.⁷: **C07D 487/04**, C07D 401/06,
C07D 231/40, C07D 295/22

(21) Application number: **99307996.1**

(22) Date of filing: **11.10.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
• **Dunn, Peter James**
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB)
• **Levett, Phillip Charles**
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB)

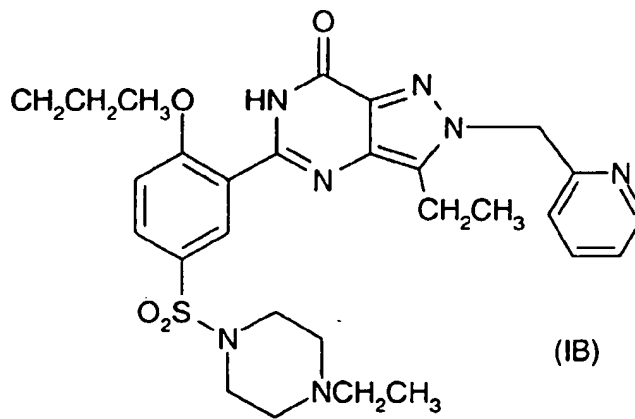
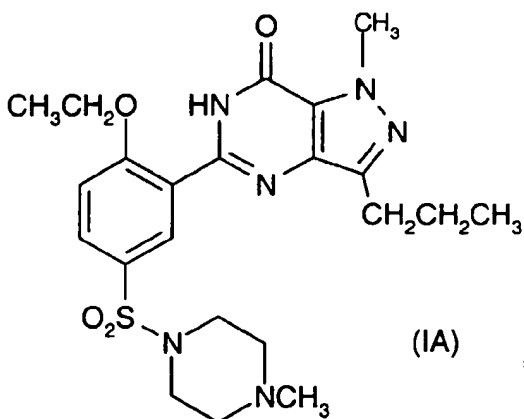
(30) Priority: **12.10.1998 GB 9822238**

(74) Representative: **McMunn, Watson Palmer et al**
Pfizer Limited
Patents Department
Ramsgate Road
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB)

(71) Applicants:
• **Pfizer Limited**
Sandwich Kent CT13 9NJ (GB)
Designated Contracting States:
GB
• **Pfizer Research and
Development Company, N.V./S.A.**
Dublin 1 (IE)
Designated Contracting States:
**BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE
AT CY**

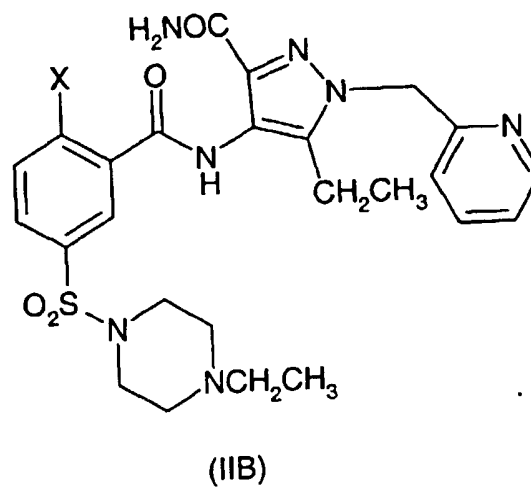
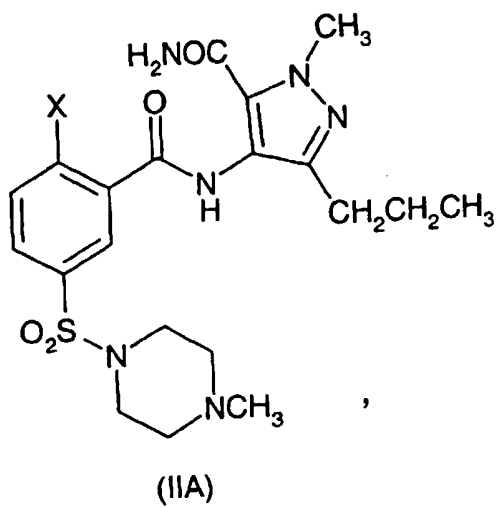
(54) **Process for preparation of pyrazolo-(4,3-d)pyrimidin-7-ones and intermediates thereof**

(57) A process is provided for the preparation of a compound of formulae (IA) (sildenafil/ ViagraTm™) and (IB)



comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIA) and (IIB) respectively in the presence of $\cdot\text{OR}$, wherein R in the case of formation of compound (IA) is CH_2CH_3 and R in the case of formation of compound (IB) is $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, where X is a leaving group:

EP 0 994 115 A2



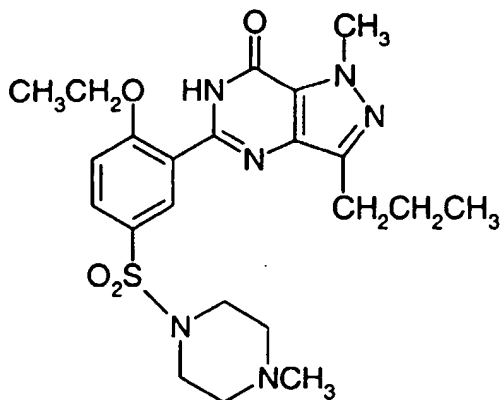
Description

[0001] This invention relates to a process for the preparation of 1-[[3-(6,7-dihydro-1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)-4-ethoxyphenyl]sulfonyl]-4-methylpiperazine (otherwise known as sildenafil or Viagra™), and 1-Ethyl-4-{3-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-7-oxo-2-(2-pyridylmethyl)-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-4-propoxyphenylsulphonyl}piperazine and key intermediates thereof.

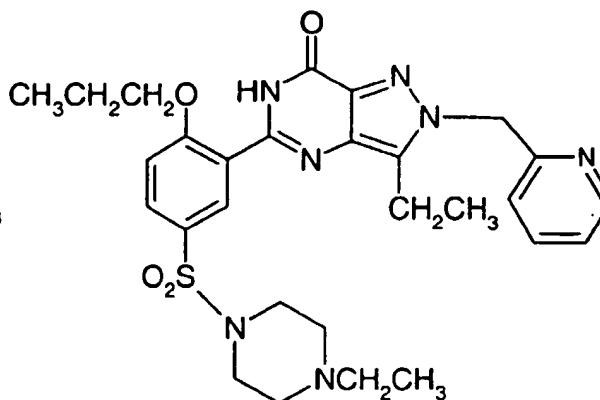
[0002] 1-[[3-(6,7-dihydro-1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)-4-ethoxyphenyl]sulfonyl]-4-methylpiperazine (otherwise known as sildenafil) has been found to be particularly useful in the treatment of, inter alia, male erectile dysfunction (WO-A-94/28907), and a process for its preparation is disclosed in EP-A-O463756 (example 12) and Drugs of the Future 1997, 22(2): 138-143. An improved process for preparing sildenafil (over that of EPO463756) is disclosed in EP-A-O812845, with the characterising final step involving cyclisation under basic, neutral or acidic conditions to form sildenafil. A process for the preparation of 1-Ethyl-4-{3-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-7-oxo-2-(2-pyridylmethyl)-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-4-propoxyphenylsulphonyl}piperazine is disclosed in WO 98/49166 (example 5B).

[0003] The present inventors have now found a process for preparing sildenafil and 1-Ethyl-4-{3-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-7-oxo-2-(2-pyridylmethyl)-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-4-propoxyphenylsulphonyl}piperazine which has advantages over the aforementioned prior art processes.

[0004] According to the present invention there is provided a process for preparing a compound of formula (IA) and (IB)

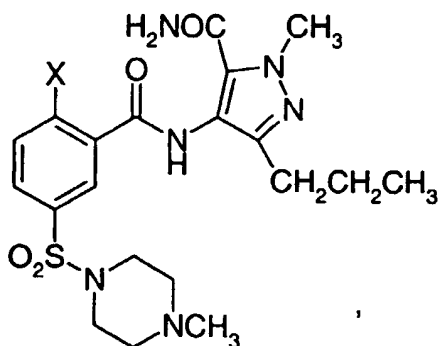


(IA)

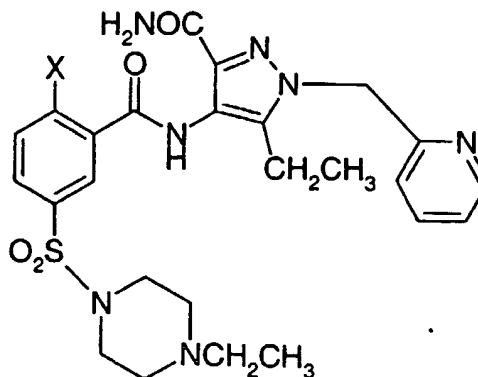


(IB)

comprising reacting a compound of (IIA) and (IIB) respectively in the presence of $\cdot\text{OR}$, wherein R in the case of formation of compound (IA) is CH_2CH_3 and R in the case of formation of compound (IB) is $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, where X is a leaving group:



(IIA)



(IIB)

[0005] A particular advantage of the present process over that of the prior art is the elimination of steps by carrying out a substitution reaction and ring closure in 'one pot'.

[0006] The intermediates of general formula (IIA) and (IIB) form a further aspect of the invention.

[0007] A key intermediate of the general formula (IIA) and (IIB) (see schemes 1 and 2 hereafter) have been identified in various reactions showing that such reactions at least partially go via a pathway of cyclisation then nucleophilic substitution. Accordingly intermediates of general formula (IIIA) and (IIIB) form yet a further aspect of the invention (wherein X is a leaving group).

[0008] A further major intermediate of formula IVA and IVB have also been identified, suggesting that there is also nucleophilic substitution before cyclisation (and these intermediates, where novel, form a further aspect of the invention).

[0009] Thus the proposed reaction pathways for the formation of compounds (IA) and (IB) are as follows

Chemical reaction scheme showing the synthesis of compound (IA) from compound (IVA) and compound (IIA).

Compound (IVA) is a substituted benzene ring with a methoxy group ($\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), a sulfonamide group ($\text{O}_2\text{S}-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)$), and a hydrazide group ($\text{H}_2\text{NOC}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}-$) attached to a triazole ring ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$).

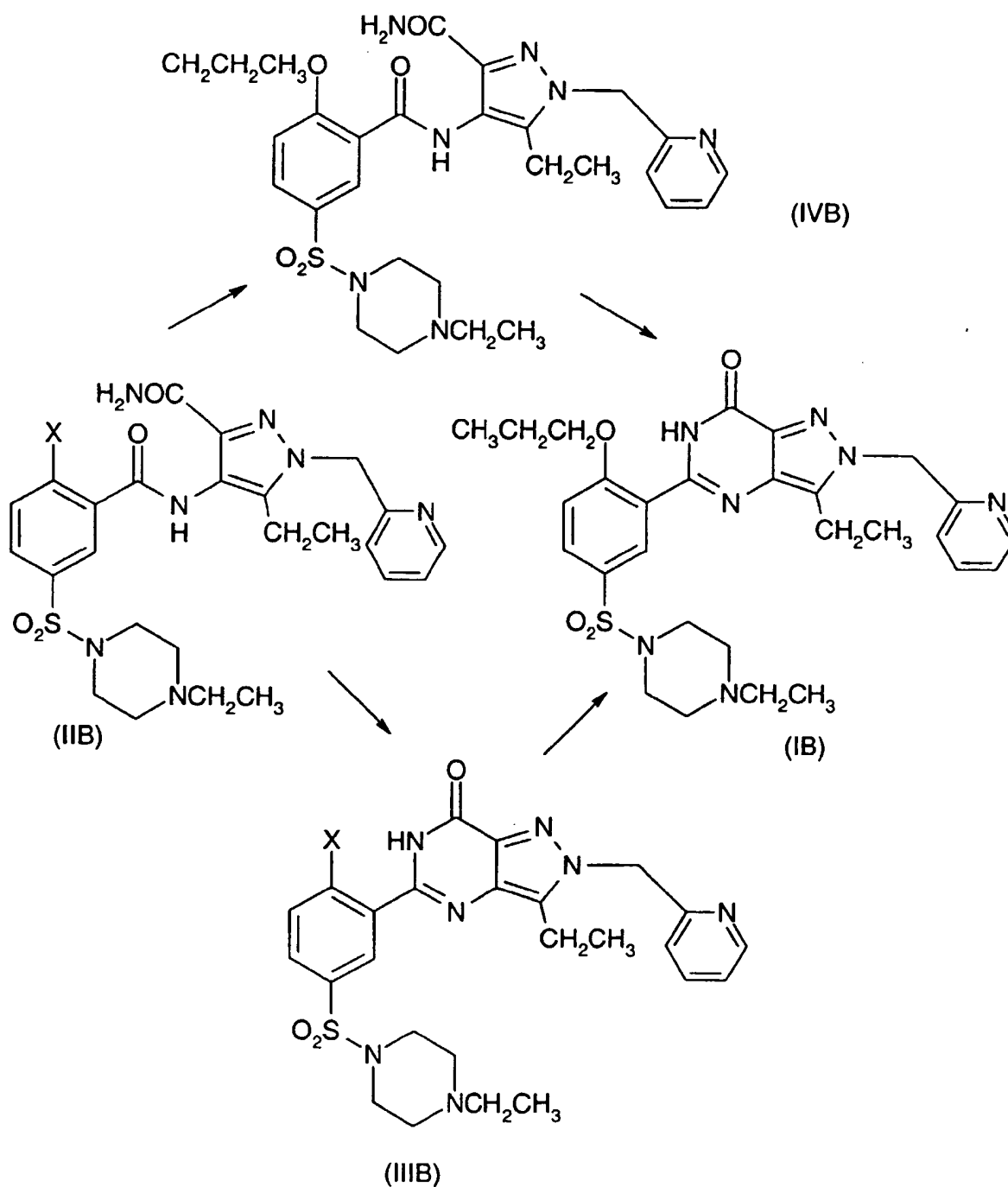
Compound (IIA) is a substituted benzene ring with a methoxy group ($\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), a sulfonamide group ($\text{O}_2\text{S}-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)$), and a hydrazide group ($\text{H}_2\text{NOC}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}-$) attached to a triazole ring ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$).

Compound (IA) is a substituted benzene ring with a methoxy group ($\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), a sulfonamide group ($\text{O}_2\text{S}-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)$), and a hydrazide group ($\text{H}_2\text{NOC}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}-$) attached to a triazole ring ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$).

Compound (IIIA) is a substituted benzene ring with a methoxy group ($\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{O}$), a sulfonamide group ($\text{O}_2\text{S}-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)$), and a hydrazide group ($\text{H}_2\text{NOC}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NH}-$) attached to a triazole ring ($\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$).

The reaction scheme shows the conversion of compound (IVA) to compound (IA) and compound (IIA) to compound (IIIA).

SCHEME 2



[0010] The relative proportion of intermediates formed is partially dependent on the nature of X (the leaving group).

[0011] Preferably X is selected from the group consisting of optionally substituted arylsulphonyloxy, preferably phenylsulphonyloxy, more preferably a para substituted aryl (phenyl) such as by a C_1 - C_4 alkyl group e.g. p-toluenesulphonyloxy; C_1 - C_4 alkylsulphonyloxy e.g. methanesulphonyloxy; nitro or halo substituted benzenesulphonyloxy preferably

para substituted e.g. p-bromobenzenesulfonyloxy or p-nitrobenzenesulphonyloxy; C₁-C₄ perfluoroalkylsulphonyloxy e.g. trifluoromethylsulphonyloxy; optionally substituted aryloxy such as benzoyloxy; C₁-C₄ perfluoroalkanoyloxy such as trifluoroacetyloxy; C₁-C₄ alkanoyloxy such as acetyloxy; halo; diazonium; C₁-C₄ primary and secondary alkoxy such as methoxy; oxonium; perchloro; quaternaryammonium C₁-C₄ alkylsulphonyloxy; halosulphonyloxy e.g. fluoro-

5 sulphonyloxy and other fluorinated leaving groups; halonium; and diarylsulphonylamino e.g. ditosyl (NTs₂).
[0012] Suitably X is a halo (fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo) or methoxy, and most suitably it is fluoro or chloro. The latter have been found to provide particularly good yields, and inexpensive commercially available starting materials (chloro and fluoro benzoic acid) can readily be used.

[0013] Herein ⁻OCH₂CH₃ and ⁻OCH₂CH₂CH₃ (disclosed in the first aspect of the invention) are referred to for convenience as ⁻OR. ⁻OR can act as both a nucleophile (to displace the leaving group by nucleophilic substitution) and as a base (to bring about the cyclisation).

[0014] ⁻OR can be generated in solution from a salt ZOR (wherein Z is a cation) such as a metal salt. More particularly an alkali (such as sodium or potassium) or alkaline earth metal salt of ⁻OR in a suitable solvent would give rise to ⁻OR in solution. For example sodium ethoxide (Na⁺ OEt⁻) in a suitable solvent with intermediate (IIA) would form sildenafil. In another embodiment, ⁻OR is formed *in situ* from ROH plus an auxiliary base (i.e. a base other than ⁻OR). However, in another system, ZOR could be used in the reaction system with an auxiliary base.

[0015] Preferred embodiments of the invention are:

1. the synthesis of compound (IA) by reaction of compound (IIA):

- a) with ethanol and auxiliary base, optionally in an inert solvent;
- b) with ZOEt and an auxiliary base in ethanol or an inert solvent or both;
- c) with ZOEt and ethanol or an inert solvent or both. the synthesis of compound (IB) by reaction of compound (IIB);
- d) with propanol and auxiliary base, optionally in an inert solvent;
- e) with ZOPr and an auxiliary base, in propanol or an inert solvent or both;
- f) with ZOPr, and propanol or an inert solvent or both.

[0016] As will be appreciated the solvent in which the reaction takes place can be ROH or an inert solvent (or a mixture of both). By inert solvent we mean a solvent which will not form a nucleophile under the reaction conditions or if a nucleophile is formed it is sufficiently hindered such that it does not substantially compete in the displacement reaction. When ROH is used as a source of ⁻OR, then a separate solvent is not essentially required but an (auxiliary) inert solvent (i.e. a solvent other than ROH) may be used as a co-solvent in the reaction.

[0017] Suitable solvents are as follows:

ethanol (for IA), propanol (for IB) (n-propanol), a secondary or tertiary C₄-C₁₂ alkanol, a C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkanol, a tertiary C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkanol, a secondary or tertiary (C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl)C₂-C₆ alkanol, a C₃-C₉ alkanone, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, 1,2-diethoxyethane, diglyme, tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxan, toluene, xylene, chlorobenzene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, acetonitrile, dimethyl sulphoxide, sulfolane, dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidin-2-one, pyridine, and mixtures thereof.

[0018] A wide range of auxiliary bases can be used in the process of the invention. Typically the bases would not compete with ⁻OR in the nucleophilic substitution of X (i.e. they would be non nucleophilic) by suitably being sterically hindered. Preferred bases in accordance with the invention are selected from the group consisting of metal salts of a sterically hindered alcohol or amine such as a secondary or tertiary C₄-C₁₂ alkanol, a C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkanol and a secondary or tertiary (C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)C₁-C₆ alkanol, a N-(secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)-N-(primary, secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)amine; a N-(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)-N-(primary, secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)amine, a di(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)amine or hexamethyldisilazane;

metal salts of 1-methyl piperazine (especially for compound IA), 1-ethylpiperazine (especially for compound IB), and morpholine;
 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]non-5-ene and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene;
 tertiary amines such as triethylamine; metal hydride, oxide, carbonate, and bicarbonate.

[0019] Preferably the metal of the salt of ZOR and the auxiliary base are independently selected from alkali metals (lithium, sodium, potassium, rubidium, caesium) or alkaline earth metals (beryllium, magnesium, calcium, strontium, barium). More preferably the metal is sodium or potassium.

[0020] Preferably the auxiliary base is selected from the group consisting of metal salts of a sterically hindered alcohol or amine such as a secondary or tertiary C₄-C₁₂ alkanol, a C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkanol and a secondary or tertiary (C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)C₁-C₆ alkanol, a N-(secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)-N-(primary, secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)amine, a N-(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)-N-(primary, secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)amine, a di(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)amine or hexamethyldisilazane; 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]non-5-ene and 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene; metal hydride, oxide, carbon-

ate and bicarbonate.

[0021] More preferably still, the auxiliary base is selected from the sterically hindered bases of the previous paragraph (i.e. all of them except the metal hydride, oxide, carbonate and bicarbonate).

[0022] Most preferably the auxiliary base is the metal salt of a tertiary C₄-C₆ alcohol such as the alkali or alkaline earth metal salts (e.g. Na/K) of t-butanol or t-amyl alcohol.

[0023] To maximise yields, it is further preferred that at least one molecular equivalent (suitably one and a half equivalent) of auxiliary base and -OR are used in accordance with the invention. If -OR also functions as a base then preferably at least two equivalents, (more preferably three equivalents) of -OR are present. Thus for example in preferred embodiments (a) to (f) above, preferably there is at least 2 equivalents of auxiliary base and at least one equivalent of EtOH or PrOH (a and d respectively), preferably at least 1 equivalent of auxiliary base and at least 1 equivalent of ZOEt or ZOPr (b and e respectively) and preferably at least 2 equivalents of ZOEt or ZOPr (c and f respectively). These are equivalents with respect to the molar quantities of IIA or IIB.

[0024] The nature of the leaving group (X) may influence the reaction pathway. For example with reference to scheme 1 for compound (IA), when X = F the reaction mostly proceeds via the intermediate illustrated by (IVA) but when the X = Cl the pathway shifts more towards the intermediate of (IIIA), and when X = OCH₃ there is more of the formula (IIIA) intermediate formed than the formula (IVA) type intermediate. However, formation of the final compound of formulae (IA) and (IB) from the intermediate formulae (IIIA) and (IIIB) respectively can be encouraged by using a higher temperature and allowing more time for formation of the final product.

[0025] Preferably the general reaction is carried out at from 50°C to 170°C. Thus where X=F, the reaction temperature could be anything from about 50°C, preferably 60°C upward and the rate of formation of the final product would be very good. For X=Cl, preferably a temperature of 60 to 170°C, more suitably at least 80°C such as (80°C to 110°C) would increase the rate; and for X=OCH₃, preferably a temperature of at least 80°C, more suitably at least 110°C (such as 110°C to 140°C) would increase the rate to the final product.

[0026] The compounds of general formula (IIA) and (IIB) may be obtained from readily available starting materials for example, by the route depicted in the following reaction schemes. Reaction scheme 3 is illustrated for compound (IA) and scheme 4 is illustrated for compound (IB).

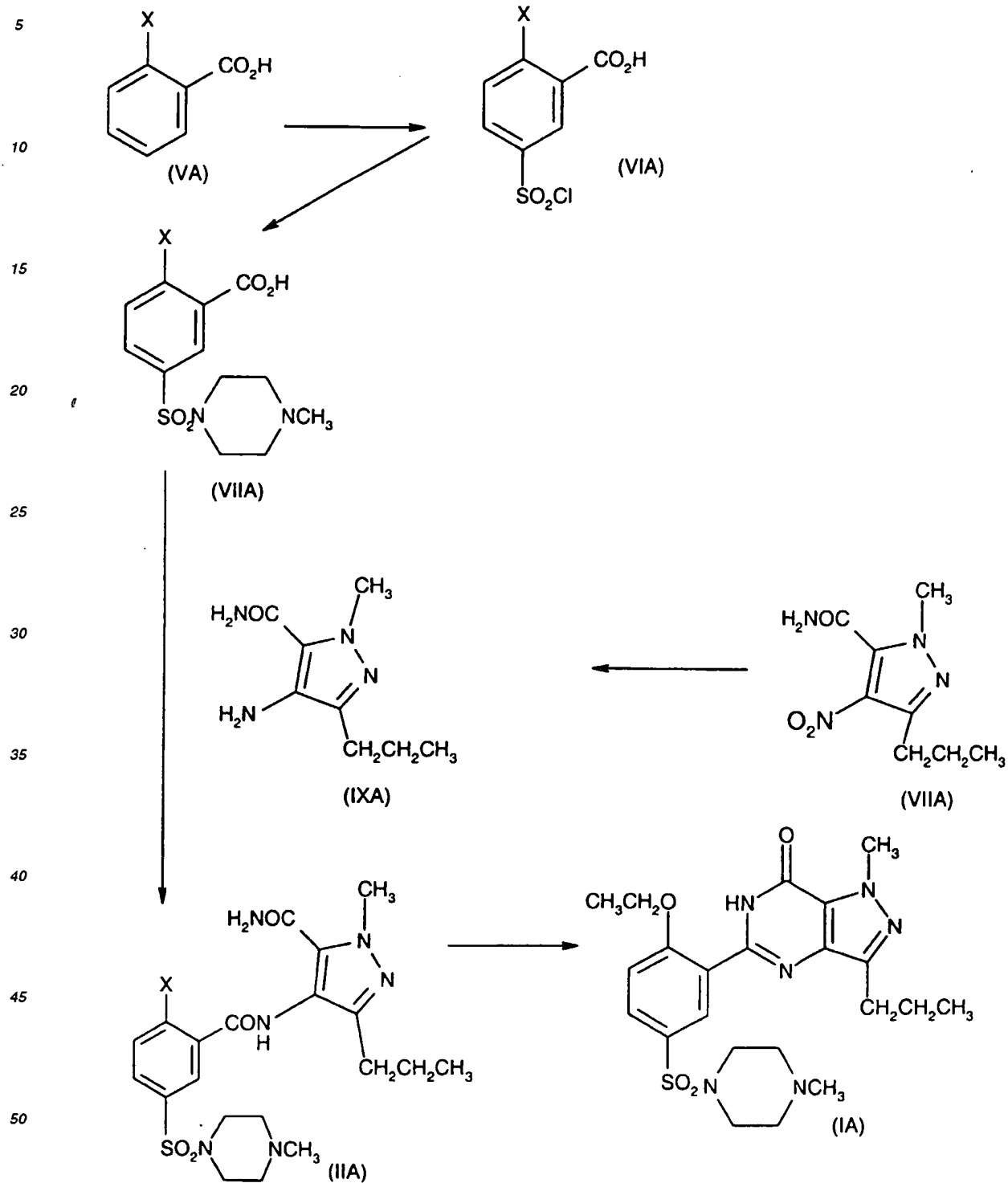
[0027] With reference to scheme 3, the intermediate of formula (VIA) is formed from a substituted (i.e. group X) benzoic acid derivative by reaction with chlorosulphonic acid. Intermediate (VIA) is then reacted with N-methylpiperazine in the presence of a base, such as a tertiary amine, more particularly triethylamine and a suitable solvent such as acetone or water to form intermediate (VIIA).

[0028] (IIA) is formed by reaction of intermediate (VIIA) and 4-amino-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (compound IXA) in the presence of a coupling agent, such as 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl carbodiimide hydrochloride and where desirable also in the presence of a base and/or an accelerator. In one example of a coupling system, the carboxylic acid function of (VIIA) is first of all activated using about a 5% excess of a reagent such as N,N'-carbonyldimidazole (as coupling agent) in a suitable solvent, e.g. ethyl acetate, at from about room temperature to about 80°C, followed by reaction of the intermediate imidazolide with (IXA) at from about 20 to about 60°C. In another example, intermediate (VIIA) could be coupled to the pyrazole (IXA) in the presence of 1-hydroxybenzotriazole, triethylamine and 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl-carbodiimide hydrochloride.

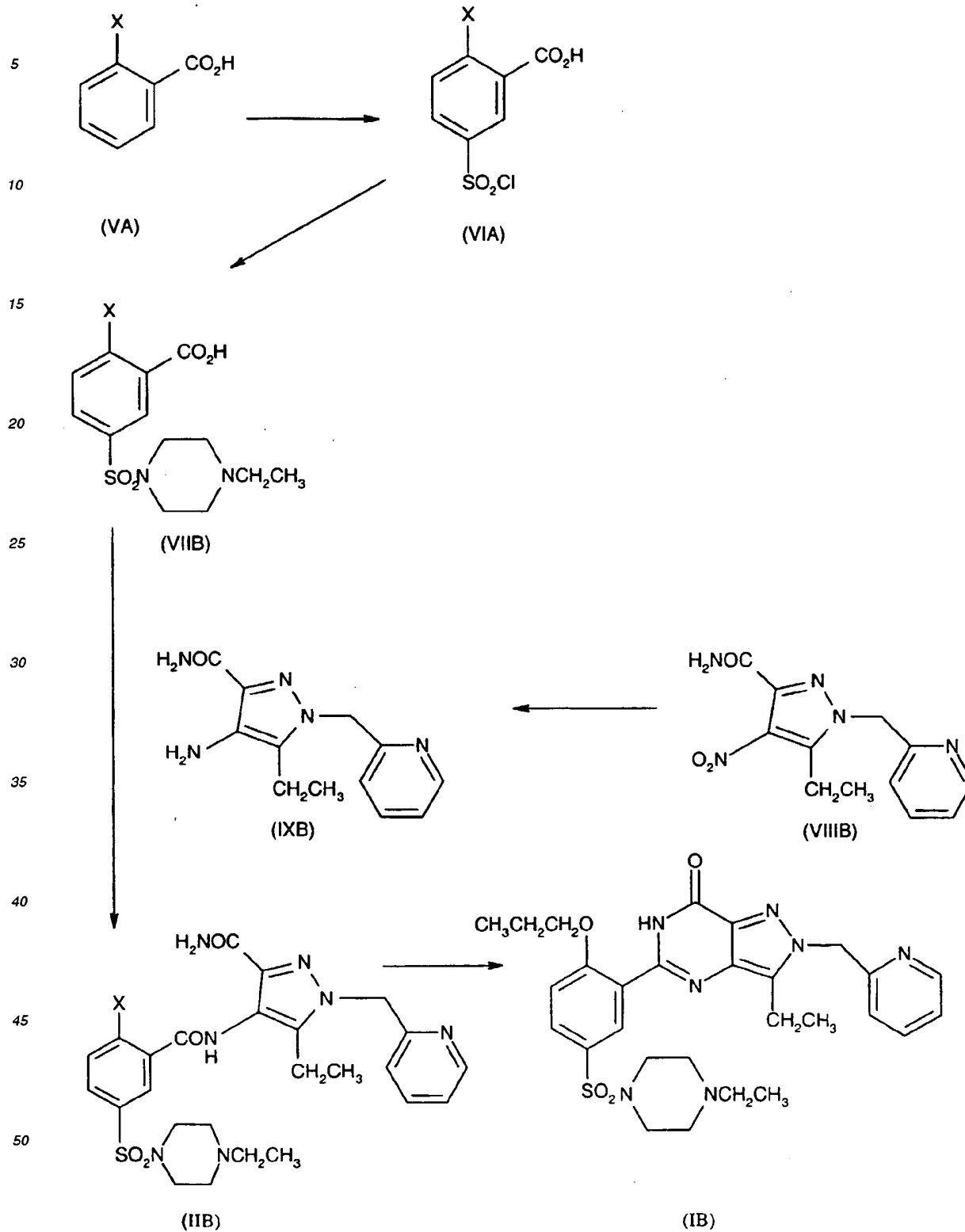
[0029] Compound (IXA) is formed by reducing 1-methyl-4 nitro-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5 carboxamide (VIIA) such as by hydrogenation in the presence of 5% palladium on charcoal.

[0030] Compound (IB) (scheme 4) can be formed in an analogous fashion to that of compound (IA). More particularly, intermediate (VIIB) is prepared by reacting (VIA) with N-ethylpiperazine; and intermediate (IIB) is formed by coupling intermediate compounds (VIIB) and (IXB).

SCHEME 3



SCHEME 4



[0031] The intermediates of general formulae (VIIA) and (VIIB) are novel and form a further aspect of the invention (wherein X is as defined hereinbefore)

[0032] The invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the following examples.

Example 1:

(1a) 5-Chlorosulphonyl-2-fluorobenzoic acid (Compound VIA, X=F)

[0033] Commercially available 2-fluorobenzoic acid (75g, 0.54Mol) was added to chlorosulphonic acid (320g) over 15 minutes, stirred for 30 minutes then heated to 90°C for 4½ hrs. Once cool, the reaction was quenched onto ice/water (1.5kg/324ml) and granulated for 1 hr. The precipitated product was filtered, water washed and dried at 50°C under vacuo to give the title compound (99.7g, 78.1%) as a white solid.

(1b) 2-Fluoro-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzoic acid (Compound VIIA, X=F)

[0034] A solution of 5-chlorosulphonyl-2-fluorobenzoic acid (47.72g, 0.2mol) in acetone (250ml) was added to a mixture of N-methylpiperazine (22.04g, 0.22mol) and triethylamine (24.29g, 0.24mol) and the reaction was stirred at ambient for three hours. The mixture was filtered, the resulting solid was recrystallised from water to afford the title compound (14.63g, 24.2%) as a white solid. δ (DMSO): 2.30 (3H, s), 2.58 (4H, m), 2.95 (4H, m), 7.52 (1H, m), 7.90 (1H, m), 8.10 m/z (Found: 303 [M+H]⁺, 100%, C₁₂H₁₆FN₂O₄S requires 303).

(1c) 4-Amino-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide

[0035] A stirred suspension of 1-methyl-4-nitro-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (EP-A-0463756; 237.7 g, 1.12 mol) and 5% palladium on charcoal (47.5 g) in ethyl acetate (2.02 l) was hydrogenated at 344.7 kPa (50 psi) and 50°C for 4 hours, when the uptake of hydrogen was complete. The cool reaction mixture was filtered, then the filter pad washed with ethyl acetate, the combined filtrate and washings thus furnishing an ethyl acetate solution of the title compound (EP-A-0463756) which was of sufficient purity to use directly in the next stage of the reaction sequence.

(1d) 4-[2-Fluoro-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzamido]-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (Compound IIA, X=F)

[0036] 4-amino-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (1.27g, 6.94 mmol) was added to a suspension of 2-fluoro-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzoic acid (2.0g, 6.94mmol), triethylamine (0.70g, 6.92mmol), 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (1.33g, 6.94mmol) and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (0.94g, 6.96mmol) in a mixture of ethyl acetate (20ml) and dichloromethane (20ml). The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 hours at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was stripped down to an oil and purified using column chromatography (flash silica, 30:70, methanol:ethyl acetate). The title compound of preparation was further purified by dissolving in dichloromethane and washing with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. The organic solution was stripped down under vacuum to produce a solid which was dried (40°C) to afford the title compound (2.1 g, 64.8%) as a white solid. m.p. 210-212°C. Found: C, 51.15; H, 5.81; N, 17.90. C₂₀H₂₇FN₆O₄S requires C, 51.49; H, 5.83; N, 18.01. δ (CDCl₃): 0.95 (3H, t), 1.62 (2H, m), 2.30 (3H, s), 2.50 (6H, m), 3.10 (4H, m), 4.10 (3H, s), 7.41 (1H, m), 8.00 (2H, m), 8.50 (1H, m). m/z (Found: 467.18909 ([M+H]⁺, 37%), C₂₀H₂₈N₆O₄SF requires 467.1890).

(1e) 1-[3-(6,7-dihydro-1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)-4-ethoxyphenyl]sulfonyl]-4-methylpiperazine (Compound IA)

[0037] Potassium *t*-butoxide (0.74g, 6.60mmol) was added to a suspension of the title compound of example (1d) (1.00g, 2.20mmol) in ethanol (5ml) and the mixture was heated under reflux for 48 hours. The reaction mixture was stripped down to an oil and purified by dissolving in dichloromethane and washing with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution. Hexane was added to the organic solution over 10 minutes, a precipitated solid filtered and dried to afford the title compound (1.1g, 100%) as a white solid. Recrystallisation of the title compound from ethyl acetate affords a solid with m.p. 184-186°C. Found: C, 55.49; H, 6.35; N, 17.72. C₂₂H₃₁N₆O₄S requires C, 55.58; H, 6.53; N, 17.68. δ (DMSO): 0.96 (3H, t), 1.30 (3H, t), 1.72 (2H, m), 2.13 (3H, s), 2.36 (4H, m), 2.72 (2H, t), 2.90 (4H, m), 4.18 (5H, m), 7.32 (1H, d), 7.80 (2H, m). m/z (Found: 475.214800 ([M+H]⁺, 100%). C₂₂H₃₁N₆O₄S. requires 475.212751).

[0038] The reaction went almost entirely via intermediate IVA, and went to completion in less than 48 hours.

Example 2:(2a) 2-Chloro-5-chlorosulphonylbenzoic acid (Compound VIA, X=Cl)

[0039] Commercially available 2-chlorobenzoic acid (80.0g), (0.5mol), was added portionwise to chlorosulphonic acid (320g) with vigorous stirring. The reaction was heated to 95°C for 6hrs then cooled overnight to room temperature. The solution was quenched onto ice/water (1.5kg/324 ml) and stirred for 15min. The precipitated product was filtered, water washed and dried at 50°C in vacuo, to give the title compound (111.1g, 85.2%) as a white solid with m.p. 140°C. δ (CDCl₃): 7.42 (1H, m), 8.27 (1H, m), 8.75 (1H, m).

(2b) 2-Chloro-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzoic acid (Compound VIIA, X=Cl)

[0040] The above compound was prepared by adding 2-chloro-5-chlorosulphonylbenzoic acid to 1.25 mol equivalent of N-ethylpiperazine in water (3ml/g) under acidic conditions.

[0041] The title compound was then isolated as a solid (81.7%). Recrystallisation of the title compound from acetone: water affords a solid with m.p. 304-6°C, and the following characteristic data:
Found: C, 45.16; H, 4.71; N, 8.64. C₁₂H₁₅ClN₂O₄S requires C, 45.21; H, 4.71; N, 8.79. δ (DMSO): 2.20 (3H, s), 2.50 (4H, m), 2.95 (4H, m), 6.75 (2H, m), 9.95 (1H, s), m/z (Found: 319 [M+H]⁺, 100% C₁₂H₁₆ClN₂O₄S requires 319).

(2c) 4-[2-Chloro-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzamido]-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide. (Compound IIA, X=Cl)

[0042] 4-Amino-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (2.86g, 15.68mmol) (example 1c) was added to a suspension of 2-chloro-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzoic acid (5.0g, 15.68mmol), triethylamine (1.59g, 15.68mmol), 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (3.00g, 15.68mmol), and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (2.12g, 15.68mmol) in dichloromethane (50ml). The reaction was stirred for 48 hours at ambient temperature, a further portion of 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl carbodiimide hydrochloride (1.00g, 5.2mmol) added and the reaction stirred for a further 48 hours at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution and ethyl acetate added to the separated organic solution over ten minutes. The mixture was stirred for ten minutes and a precipitated solid filtered, and dried to afford the title compound (6.0g, 81%). m.p. 105-107°C. δ (DMSO): 0.90 (3H, t), 1.60 (2H, m), 2.13 (3H, s), 2.40 (4H, m), 2.50 (2H, m), 2.95 (4H, m), 3.90 (3H, s), 7.30 (1H, s), 7.82 (4H, m), 10.0 (1H, s). m/z (Found: 505.140303 ([M+Na]⁺, 28%). C₂₀H₂₇ClN₆O₄SNa. requires 505.140073).

(2d) 1-[[3-(6,7-dihydro-1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)-4-ethoxyphenyl]sulfonyl]-4-methylpiperazine. (Compound IA)

[0043] Potassium *t*-butoxide (1.43g, 12.75mmol) was added to a suspension of the title compound of example 2(c) (2.00g, 4.25mmol) in ethanol (20ml) and the mixture was heated under reflux for 48 hours. The pH of the reaction was adjusted to 6, using 1N hydrochloric acid, the precipitated solid filtered and dried to afford the title compound. Recrystallisation of the title compound from methyl isobutyl ketone afforded a solid with m.p. 188°C. δ (CDCl₃): 1.01 (3H, t), 1.62 (3H, t), 1.88 (2H, m), 2.30 (3H, s), 2.50 (4H, m), 2.95 (2H, t), 3.13 (4H, m), 4.30 (3H, s), 4.39 (2H, q), 7.15 (1H, d), 7.82 (1H, m), 8.82 (1H, m). m/z (Found: 475.2127 ([M+H]⁺, 100%). C₂₂H₃₁N₆O₄S. requires 475.212751).

[0044] Intermediate of formula IVA was prepared in accordance with EP-A-0812845, and intermediate of formula IIIA, X=Cl was prepared in accordance with example 2(e) herebelow. These intermediates were then used as markers for comparison of hplc samples taken from the reaction mixture during step 2(d), in order to deduce the reaction path.

[0045] Intermediates IIIA (X=Cl) and IVA were observed (by hplc) in a ratio of about 20:80 respectively.

2(e) 1-[4-Chloro-3-(6,7-dihydro-1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)phenylsulphonyl]-4-methylpiperazine, (Compound IIIA, X=Cl)

[0046] Potassium *t*-butoxide (0.24g, 2.14mmol) was added to a suspension of the title compound of example 2(c) (1.00g, 2.12mmol) in *t*-butanol (5ml) and the mixture was heated under reflux for 120 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled and the precipitated solid was filtered and dried to afford the title compound (0.48g, 50%) as a white solid m.p. 205-208°C. δ (DMSO): 0.90 (3H, t), 1.70 (2H, m), 2.13 (3H, s), 2.38 (4H, m), 2.68 (2H, t), 2.92 (4H, m), 4.10 (3H, s), 4.15 (1H, s), 7.60 (1H, m), 7.70 (1H, d), 7.85 (1H, m). m/z (Found: 465.1484 ([M+H]⁺, 100%). C₂₀H₂₆ClN₆O₃S requires 465.147564).

Example 3:(3a) 5-Chlorosulphonyl-2-methoxybenzoic acid (Compound VIA, X=OCH₃)

[0047] Commercially available 2-methoxybenzoic acid (15.2g, 0.1 mol) was added portionwise to chlorosulphonic acid (52.43g) over 30min with ice cooling. Thionyl chloride (11.9g, 0.1 mol) was added and the reaction stirred overnight. The reaction was quenched onto ice/water (250g/65ml) and the precipitated product granulated for 1 hr, filtered, water washed and oven dried to give the title compound (23.56g, 93.9%) as a white solid with m.p. 138-140°C. δ (CDCl₃): 4.18 (3H, s), 7.23 (1H, d), 8.21 (1H, d), 8.78 (1H, s).

(3b) 2-Methoxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzoic acid

[0048] The above compound was prepared by adding 5-chlorosulphonyl-2-methoxybenzoic acid to 1.1 mol equivalent of N-methylpiperazine and 1.2 mol equivalents of triethylamine in acetone (5ml/g).

[0049] The title compound was then isolated by filtration, as a solid (79.1%), with the following characteristic data: Found: C, 49.70; H, 5.76; N, 8.75. C₁₃H₁₈N₂O₅S requires C, 49.68; H, 5.73; N, 8.92. δ (DMSO): 2.15 (3H, s), 2.35 (4H, m), 2.90 (4H, m), 3.90 (3H, s), 7.25 (1H, m), 7.10 (2H, m), m/z (Found: 315 [M+H]⁺, 65% C₁₃H₁₉N₂O₅S requires 315).

(3c) 4-[2-Methoxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzamido]-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide. (Compound IIA, X=OCH₃)

[0050] A mixture of 2-methoxy-5-(4-methyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzoic acid (2.00g, 6.36mmol) and carbonyl diimidazole (1.03g, 6.35mmol) in dichloromethane (20ml) was stirred for three hours at 30°C. 4-Amino-1-methyl-3-propyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (1.16g, 6.37mmol) and triethylamine (0.64g, 6.32mmol) were added to the reaction mixture and stirred for 48 hours at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was washed with saturated sodium bicarbonate solution, the separated organic solution stripped under vacuum to produce a solid which was dried (40 °C) to afford the title compound (2.74g, 90%) as a white solid. m.p. 182°C. Found: C, 52.42; H, 6.36; N, 17.31; C₂₁H₃₀N₆O₅S requires C, 52.71; H, 6.32; N, 17.56. δ (DMSO): 0.90 (3H, t), 1.60 (2H, m), 2.12 (3H, s), 2.32 (4H, m), 2.42 (2H, t), 2.90 (4H, m), 3.90 (3H, s), 4.00 (3H, s), 7.32 (1H, s), 7.42 (1H, d), 7.80 (1H, s), 7.90 (2H, m), 9.70 (1H, s). m/z (Found: 479.2088 ([M+H]⁺, 52%). C₂₁H₃₁N₆O₅S. requires 479.207665).

(3d) 1-[3-(6,7-dihydro-1-methyl-7-oxo-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)-4-ethoxyphenyl]sulfonyl]-4-methylpiperazine. (Compound IA)

[0051] Potassium-*t*-butoxide (146mg, 1.30mmol) was added to a suspension of the title compound of step 3c (200mg, 0.43mmol) in ethanol (4ml) and the mixture was heated under reflux for 120 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled and the pH of the reaction was adjusted to 6, using dilute hydrochloric acid. The precipitated solid was filtered and dried to afford the title compound (60mg, 29%) as an off white solid with m.p. 187°C. δ (CDCl₃): 1.00 (3H, t), 1.62 (3H, t), 1.90 (2H, m), 2.22 (3H, s), 2.50 (4H, m), 2.95 (2H, t), 3.10 (4H, m), 4.30 (3H, s), 4.38 (2H, q), 7.15 (1H, d), 7.82 (1H, d), 8.82 (1H, s), 10.85 (1H, s). m/z (Found: 497.199635 [M⁺, 100%]. C₂₂H₃₀N₆O₄S. requires 497.194695).

[0052] The following intermediate 3(e) was independently prepared and used as a marker for hplc comparison of samples taken from the reaction mixture during step 3(d).

[0053] The intermediate of example 3(e) (IIIA, X=OCH₃) and intermediate IVA were observed by hplc in a ratio of about 70:30 respectively.

(3e) 1-[3-(6,7-Dihydro-1-methyl-oxo-3-propyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl)-4-methoxy-phenylsulphonyl]-4-methylpiperazine (Compound IIIA, X=OCH₃)

[0054] Potassium *t*-butoxide (0.176g, 1.57mmol) was added to a suspension of the title compound of step 3c (0.75g, 1.57mmol) in *t*-butanol (5ml) and the mixture was heated under reflux for 96 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled and the precipitated solid was filtered and dried to afford the title compound (0.33g, 45.6%) as a white solid m.p. 182°C. δ (CDCl₃): 1.02 (3H, t), 1.88 (2H, m), 2.30 (3H, s), 2.50 (4H, m), 2.92 (2H, t), 3.10 (4H, m), 4.15 (3H, s), 4.30 (3H, s), 7.20 (1H, m), 7.95 (1H, d), 8.10 (1H, m).

Example 4:**(4a) Ethyl 3-ethyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylate**

[0055] Ethanolic sodium ethoxide solution (21% w/w; 143 ml, 0.39 mol) was added dropwise to a stirred, ice-cooled solution of diethyl oxalate (59.8 ml, 0.44 mol) in absolute ethanol (200 ml) under nitrogen and the resulting solution stirred for 15 minutes. Butan-2-one (39 ml, 0.44 mol) was then added dropwise, the cooling bath removed, the reaction mixture stirred for 18 hours at room temperature and then for 6 hours at 40°C, then the cooling bath reintroduced. Next, glacial acetic acid (25 ml, 0.44 mol) was added dropwise, the resulting solution stirred for 30 minutes at 0°C, hydrazine hydrate (20 ml, 0.44 mol) added dropwise, then the reaction mixture allowed to warm to room temperature and maintained there over a period of 18 hours, before being evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was partitioned between dichloromethane (300 ml) and water (100 ml), then the organic phase separated, washed with water (2 x 100ml), dried (Na₂SO₄) and concentrated under reduced pressure to give the title compound (66.0 g). δ (CDCl₃): 1.04 (3H,t), 1.16 (3H,t), 2.70 (2H,q), 4.36 (2H,q), 6.60 (1H,s). LRMS: m/z 169 (M+1)⁺.

(4b) 3-Ethyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylic acid

[0056] Aqueous sodium hydroxide solution (10M; 100 ml, 1.0 mol) was added dropwise to a stirred suspension of the title compound of example (4a) (66.0 g, 0.39 mol) in methanol and the resulting solution heated under reflux for 4 hours. The cool reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to ca. 200 ml, diluted with water (200 ml) and this mixture washed with toluene (3 x 100 ml). The resulting aqueous phase was acidified with concentrated hydrochloric acid to pH 4 and the white precipitate collected and dried by suction to provide the title compound (34.1 g). δ (DMSO-d₆): 1.13 (3H,t), 2.56 (2H,q), 6.42 (1H,s).

(4c) 3-Ethyl-4-nitro-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylic acid

[0057] Fuming sulphuric acid (17.8 ml) was added dropwise to stirred, ice-cooled fuming nitric acid (16.0 ml), the resulting solution heated to 50°C, 3-ethyl-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxylic acid added portionwise over 30 minutes whilst maintaining the reaction temperature below 60°C. The resulting solution was heated for 18 hours at 60°C, allowed to cool, then poured onto ice. The title compound was obtained as a brown solid (64%). δ (DMSO-d₆): 1.18 (3H,t), 2.84 (2H,m), 13.72 (1H,s).

(4d) 3-Ethyl-4-nitro-1H-pyrazole-5-carboxamide

[0058] A solution of the title compound of example (4c) (15.4 g, 0.077 mol) in thionylchloride (75 ml) was heated under reflux for 3 hours and then the cool reaction mixture evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was azeotroped with tetrahydrofuran (2 x 50 ml) and subsequently suspended in tetrahydrofuran (50 ml), then the stirred suspension ice-cooled and treated with gaseous ammonia for 1 hour. Water (50 ml) was added and the resulting mixture evaporated under reduced pressure to give a solid which, after trituration with water and drying by suction, furnished the title compound as a white solid (90%). δ (DMSO-d₆): 1.17 (3H,t), 2.87 (2H,m), 7.40 (1H,s), 7.60 (1H,s), 7.90 (1H,s). LRMS: m/z 185 (M+1)⁺.

(4e) 5-Ethyl-4-nitro-1-(2-pyridylmethyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxamide. (Compound VIIIB)

[0059] Caesium carbonate (1.414 kg, 4.34mol) was added to a suspension of the title compound of example (4d) (800g, 4.34mol) in acetonitrile (51) and the mixture warmed to 60°C. 2-Chloromethylpyridine (664.7g, 5.23mol) was added and the reaction heated at 70°C for 7 hours, then water (9.51) added and the reaction mixture cooled to 10°C. Granulation of this mixture gave a precipitate which was filtered and dried to afford 3-ethyl-4-nitro-1-(pyridin-2-yl)methyl-pyrazole-5-carboxamide (367g). Sodium chloride (1.58 kg) was added to the filtrate and the solution extracted with ethyl acetate (4 x 1.751). The combined organic extracts were distilled to remove approximately 10 l of solvent, toluene (5.61) added over 35 minutes to the hot (69-76°C) solution and the mixture allowed to cool. The resulting suspension was granulated at <10°C for 30 minutes, filtered, the solid washed with ethyl acetate:toluene (50:50) 600 ml and dried (60°C) to afford the title compound (624g 52%) as a light brown solid. δ (DMSO-d₆): 1.08 (3H,t), 3.02 (2H,q), 5.53 (2H,s), 7.34 (2H,m), 7.65 (1H,s), 7.82 (1H,m), 7.93 (1H,s), 8.52 (1H,d). LRMS: m/z 276 (M+1)⁺.

(4f) 4-Amino-5-ethyl-1-(2-pyridylmethyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxamide. (Compound IXB)

[0060] A mixture of Lindlar catalyst (2g) and the title compound of example (4e) (20g, 72.7mmol) in ethanol (160ml)

was hydrogenated for 48 hours at 345kPa (50psi) and 50°C, then cooled and filtered. The filtrate was combined with an IMS wash (50ml) of the filter pad and concentrated under reduced pressure to a volume of 100ml. The remaining ethanol was removed by distillation, and replaced with ethyl acetate until a head temperature of 77°C had been achieved. The cooled mixture was granulated at 4°C, filtered and dried to afford the title compound (13.17g, 73%) as a light brown solid. δ (DMSO- d_6): 0.90 (3H,t), 2.54 (2H,q), 4.48 (2H,s), 5.31 (2H,s), 6.89 (1H,d), 6.95 (1H,s), 7.11 (1H,s), 7.28 (1H,m), 7.74 (1H,m), 8.50 (1H,d). LRMS: m/z 246 (M+1)⁺.

(4g) 2-Chloro-5-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzoic acid (Compound VIIB, X=Cl)

[0061] 2-Chloro-5-chlorosulphonylbenzoic acid (51.02g, 0.2mol) from example (2a) in water was cooled to 5°C. The pH of the reaction was adjusted to 2.2 using aqueous sodium hydroxide (5M), N-ethylpiperazine was added and the pH adjustment continued to 5.5. The reaction mixture was stirred for 12 hours at ambient temperature. The precipitated solid filtered to afford the title compound. Recrystallisation of the title compound from acetone: water affords a solid with m.p. 267-269°C. δ (DMSO): 1.00 (3H, s), 2.50 (2H, m), 2.60 (4H, m), 3.00 (4H, m), 7.75 (2H, s), 7.95 (1H, s), m/z (Found: 333 [M+H]⁺, 100% C₁₃H₁₈ClN₂O₄S requires 333).

(4h) 4-[2-Chloro-5-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzamido]-5-ethyl-1-(2-pyridylmethyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxamide. (Compound IB, X=Cl)

[0062] 4-Amino-5-ethyl-1-(2-pyridylmethyl)-1H-pyrazole-3-carboxamide (compound IXB) (4.02g, 16.4mmol) was added to a suspension of 2-chloro-5-(4-ethyl-1-piperazinylsulphonyl)benzoic acid (5.0g, 16.4mmol), 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl carbodiimide hydrochloride (3.15g, 16.4mmol) and 1-hydroxybenzotriazole (2.22g, 16.4mmol) in dichloromethane (50ml). The reaction was stirred for 48 hours at ambient temperature. The reaction mixture was filtered and the solid dried to afford the title compound (2.26g, 24.7%) as a white solid m.p. 185°C. Found: C, 53.26; H, 5.38; N, 17.13. C₂₅H₃₀ClN₇O₄S requires C, 53.61; H, 5.40; N, 17.51. δ (DMSO): 0.90 (3H, t), 1.20 (3H, t), 2.30 (2H, q), 2.21 (4H, m), 2.70 (2H, q), 2.95 (4H, m), 5.50 (2H, s), 7.10 (1H, d), 7.20 (1H, m), 7.30 (2H, m), 7.85 (3H, m), 7.93 (1H, s), 8.55 (1H, d), 9.92 (1H, s). m/z (Found: 560.1835 ([M+H]⁺, 65%). C₂₅H₃₁ClN₇O₄S requires 560.184677).

(4i) 1-Ethyl-4-(3-[3-ethyl-6,7-dihydro-7-oxo-2-(2-pyridylmethyl)-2H-pyrazolo[4,3-d]pyrimidin-5-yl]-4-propoxyphenylsulphonyl)piperazine. (Compound IB)

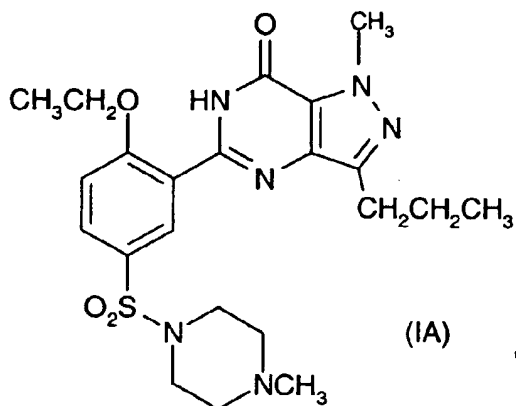
[0063] Potassium *t*-butoxide (0.90g, 8.02mmol) was added to a suspension of the title compound of example 4(h) (1.5g, 2.68mmol) in propan-1-ol (10ml) and the mixture was heated under reflux for 48 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled and the precipitated solid was filtered and dried to afford the title compound (1.16g, 80%). Recrystallisation of the title compound from methyl isobutyl ketone afforded a solid with m.p. 95°C. δ (CDCl₃): 1.00 (3H, t), 1.12 (3H, t), 1.30 (3H, t), 2.02 (2H, m), 2.40 (2H, q), 2.50 (4H, m), 3.10 (6H, m), 4.13 (2H, t), 5.70 (2H, s), 7.20 (3H, m), 7.60 (1H, m), 7.80 (1H, m), 8.55 (1H, m), 8.80 (1H, m), 10.60 (1H, s). m/z (Found: 566.257068 ([M+H]⁺, 100%). C₂₈H₃₆N₇O₄S. requires 566.257068).

[0064] On sampling the reaction mixture using HPLC, the result suggests that the reaction pathway proceeds mainly via intermediate IVB.

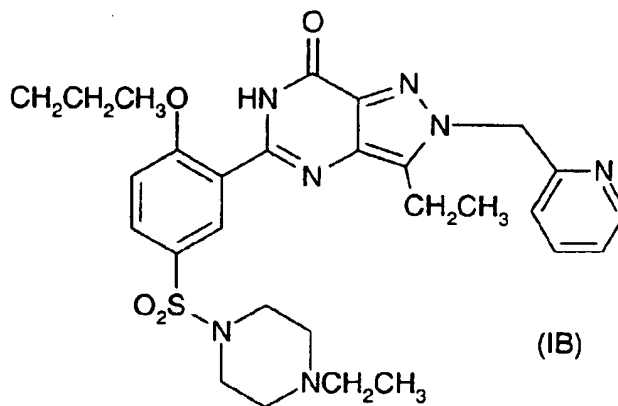
The invention thus provides an excellent process for preparing compounds of formula I which is safe (obviates the need to use carcinogenic alkylating reagents), is economic, utilises readily available starting materials, and which combines a novel displacement and ring closure reaction in one reaction vessel.

Claims

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of formulae (IA) and (IB)

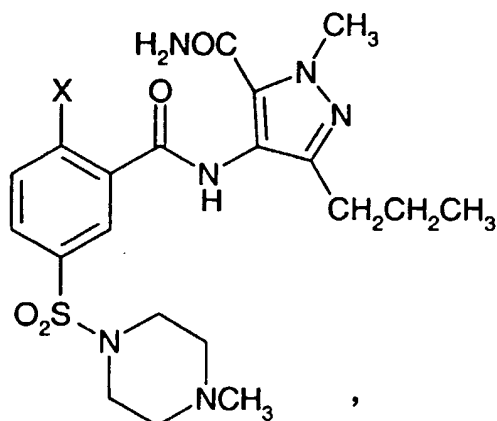


(IA)

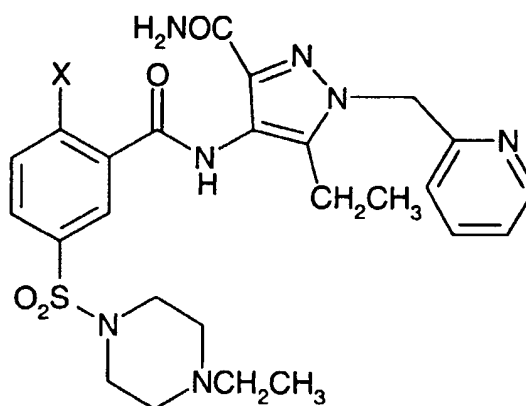


(IB)

comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIA) and (IIB) respectively in the presence of OR^- , wherein R in the case of formation of compound (IA) is CH_2CH_3 and R in the case of formation of compound (IB) is $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$, where X is a leaving group:



(IIA)



(IIB)

2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of arylsulphonyloxy, C_1 - C_4 alkylsulphonyloxy, nitro or halo substituted benzenesulphonyloxy, C_1 - C_4 perfluoroalkylsulphonyloxy, optionally substituted aryloxy, C_1 - C_4 perfluoroalkanoyloxy, C_1 - C_4 alkanoyloxy, halo; diazonium; C_1 - C_4 primary and secondary alkoxy, oxonium, perchloroyloxy, quaternaryammonium C_1 - C_4 alkylsulphonuloxy, halosulphonyloxy, halonium and diarylsulphonylamino.
3. A process as claimed in claim 2 wherein X is a halo or methoxy.
4. A process as claimed in claim 3 wherein X is fluoro, chloro or methoxy.
5. A process as claimed in claim 4 wherein X is fluoro or chloro.
6. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein OR^- is present with an auxiliary base.
7. A process as claimed in claim 6 wherein the auxiliary base is selected from the group consisting of sterically hindered base, metal salts of 1-methyl piperazine (especially for compound IA), 1-ethylpiperazine (especially for compound IB), morpholine, a metal hydride, metal oxide, metal carbonate and metal bicarbonate.
8. A process as claimed in claim 7 wherein the sterically hindered base is a metal salt of a sterically hindered alcohol

or amine.

9. A process as claimed in claim 8 wherein the metal salt of a sterically hindered alcohol or amine is selected from the group consisting of a secondary or tertiary C₄-C₁₂ alkanol, a C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkanol and a secondary or tertiary (C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)C₁-C₆ alkanol, a N-(secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)-N-(primary, secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)amine, a N-(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)-N-(primary, secondary or tertiary C₃-C₆ alkyl)amine, a di(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl)amine or hexamethyldisilazane 1,5-diazabicyclo[4,3,0]non-5-ene 1,8-diazabicyclo[5,4,0]undec-7-ene and tertiary amines such as triethylamine.

10. A process as claimed in claims 9 wherein the auxiliary base is a metal salt of a tertiary alkanol.

11. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the reaction is carried out in an inert solvent or ROH or a mixture of both.

12. A process as claimed in claim 11 wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethanol (for IA), n-propanol (for IB), a secondary or tertiary C₄-C₁₂ alkanol, a C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkanol, a tertiary C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkanol, a secondary or tertiary (C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl)C₂-C₆ alkanol, a C₃-C₉ alkanone, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, 1,2-diethoxyethane, diglyme, tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxan, toluene, xylene, chlorobenzene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, acetonitrile, dimethyl sulphoxide, sulpholane, dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidin-2-one, pyridine, and mixtures thereof.

13. A process as claimed in claim 12 wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethanol (for IA), n-propanol (for IB), a tertiary C₄-C₁₂ alkanol, a tertiary C₄-C₁₂ cycloalkanol, a tertiary (C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl)C₂-C₆ alkanol, a C₃-C₉ alkanone, 1,2-dimethoxyethane, 1,2-diethoxyethane, diglyme, tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxan, toluene, xylene, chlorobenzene, 1,2-dichlorobenzene, acetonitrile, sulpholane, dimethylformamide, N-methylpyrrolidin-2-one, pyridine, and mixtures thereof.

14. A process as claimed in claim 13 wherein the solvent is ethanol (for IA) or propanol (for IB).

15. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (IA) and (IB) according to any one of the preceding claims comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIA) and (IIB) respectively with ZOR, or with ROH and an auxiliary base as defined hereinbefore or with ZOR and an auxiliary base, wherein ZOR is a salt of OR and Z is a cation.

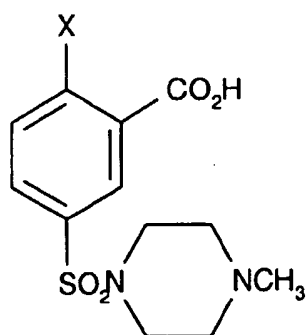
16. A process as claimed in claim 15 wherein compound (IA) is formed by reaction of compound (IIA):

- a) with ethanol and auxiliary base, optionally in an inert solvent; or
- b) with ZOEt and an auxiliary base in ethanol or an inert solvent or both; or
- c) with ZOEt and ethanol or an inert solvent or both.

17. A process as claimed in claim 15 wherein compound (IB) is formed by reaction of compound (IIB):

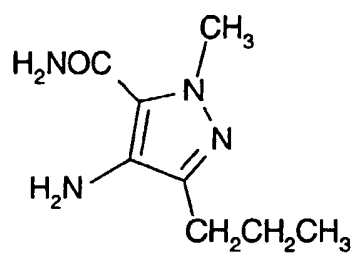
- d) with propanol and auxiliary base, optionally in an inert solvent (as defined hereinbefore); or
- e) with ZOPr and an auxiliary base, in propanol or an inert solvent or both; or
- f) with ZOPr, and propanol or an inert solvent or both.

18. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the compound of formula (IIA) is prepared by coupling a compound of formula (VIIA)



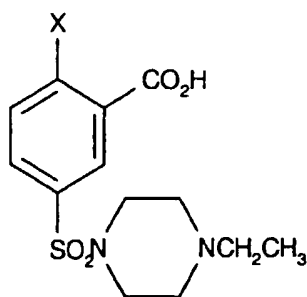
(VIIA)

with a compound of formula (IXA)



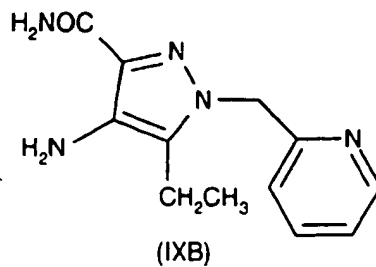
(IXA)

and a compound of formula (IIB) is prepared by coupling a compound of formula (VIIB)

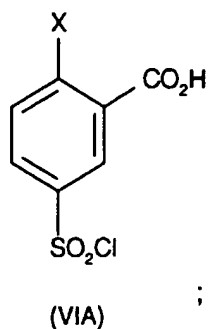


(VIIB)

with a compound of formula (IXB)

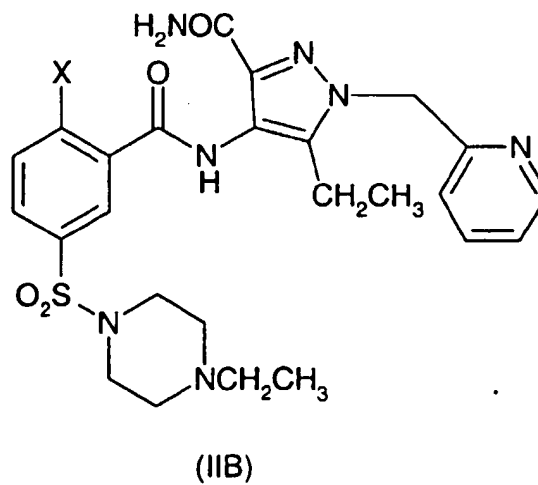
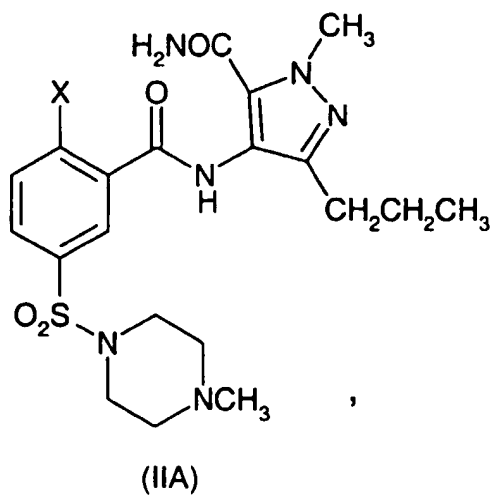


15 19. A process as claimed in claim 18 wherein a compound of the formula (VIIA) is formed by coupling a compound of formula (VIA) with N-methylpiperazine



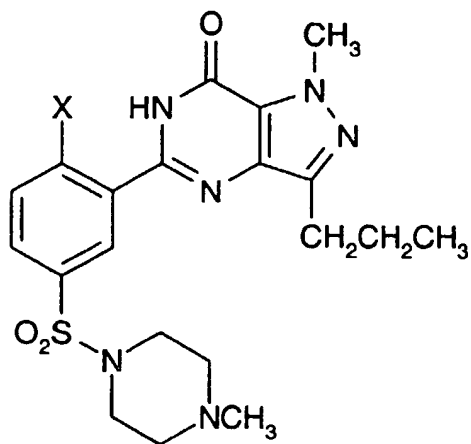
30 and a compound of formula (VIIB) is formed by coupling a compound of formula (VIA) with N-ethylpiperazine.

35 20. A compound of formula (IIA) and (IIB):

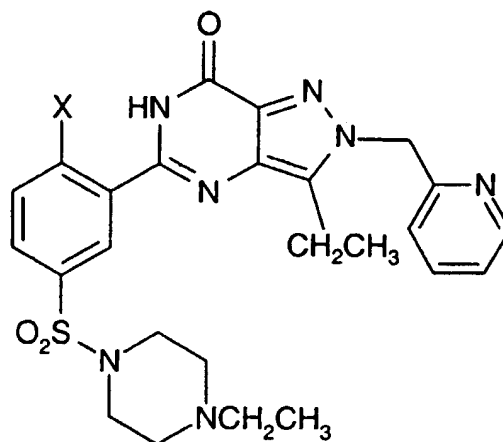


wherein X is as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5.

21. A compound of formula (IIIA) and (IIIB):



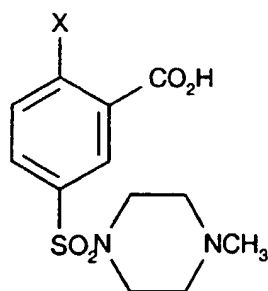
(IIIA)



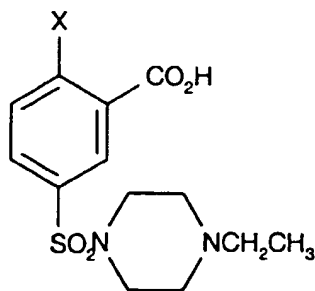
(IIIB)

wherein X is as defined in anyone of claims 1 to 5.

22. A compound of formula (VIIA) and (VIIB)



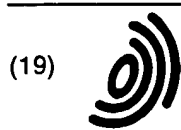
(VIIA)



(VIIB)

wherein X is as defined in anyone of claims 1 to 5.

23. A compound as claimed in any of claims 20 to 22 herein X is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro and methoxy.



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 994 115 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
24.05.2000 Bulletin 2000/21

(51) Int Cl.7: **C07D 487/04**, C07D 401/06,
C07D 231/40, C07D 295/22

(43) Date of publication A2:
19.04.2000 Bulletin 2000/16

(21) Application number: **99307996.1**

(22) Date of filing: **11.10.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(30) Priority: **12.10.1998 GB 9822238**

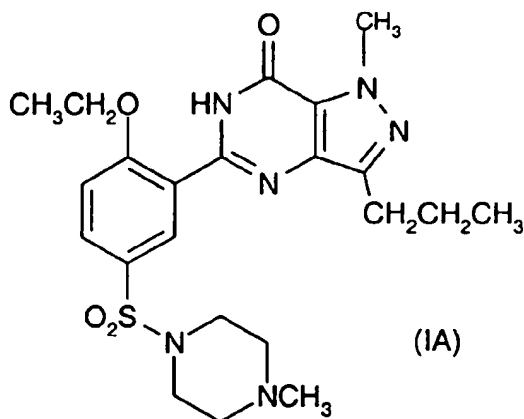
(71) Applicants:
• **Pfizer Limited**
Sandwich Kent CT13 9NJ (GB)
Designated Contracting States:
GB
• **Pfizer Research and
Development Company, N.V./S.A.**
Dublin 1 (IE)
Designated Contracting States:
**BE CH DE DK ES FI FR GR IE IT LU MC NL PT SE
AT CY**

(72) Inventors:
• **Dunn, Peter James**
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB)
• **Levett, Philip Charles**
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB)

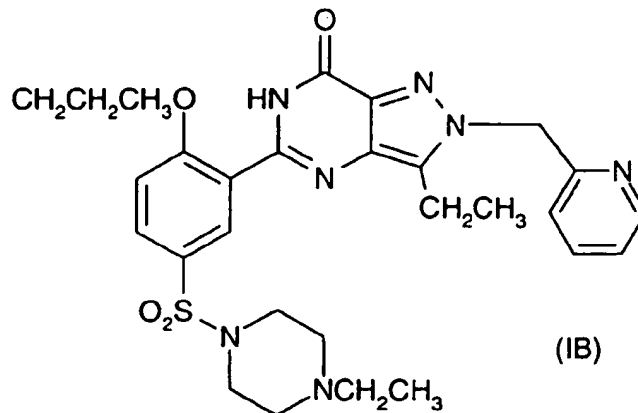
(74) Representative: **McMunn, Watson Palmer et al**
Pfizer Limited
Patents Department
Ramsgate Road
Sandwich, Kent CT13 9NJ (GB)

(54) **Process for preparation of pyrazolo-(4,3-d)pyrimidin-7-ones and intermediates thereof**

(57) A process is provided for the preparation of a compound of formulae (IA) (sildenafil/ Viagra™) and (IB)



(IA)

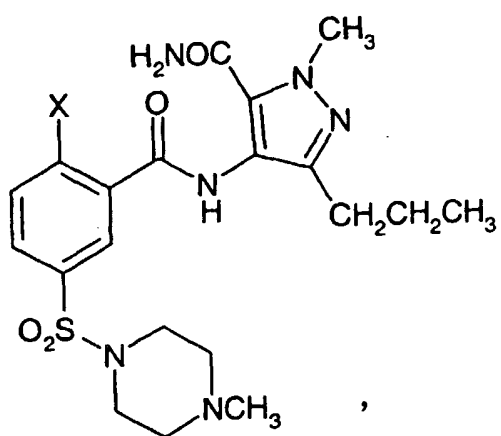


(IB)

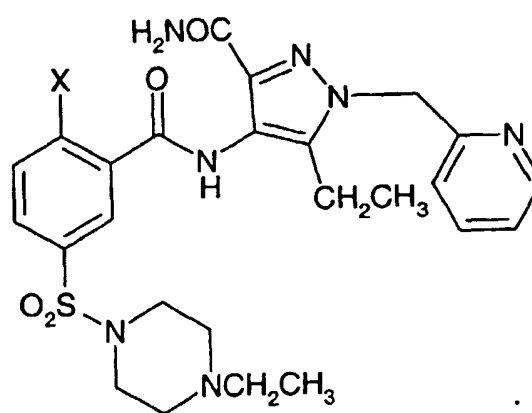
comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIA) and (IIB) respectively in the presence of -OR, wherein R in the case of formation of compound (IA) is CH₂CH₃ and R in the case of formation of compound (IB) is CH₂CH₂CH₃, where X

EP 0 994 115 A3

is a leaving group:



(IIA)



(IIB)



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 99 30 7996

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IntCl.7)
X,D	EP 0 812 845 A (PFIZER LTD ; PFIZER RES & DEV (IE)) 17 December 1997 (1997-12-17) * the whole document *	1,2,6-22	C07D487/04 C07D401/06 C07D231/40 C07D295/22
A	US 3 992 441 A (HELLAND GERALD F) 16 November 1976 (1976-11-16) * column 4, line 43-68 *	22,23	
P,X, D	WO 98 49166 A (BUNNAGE MARK EDWARD ; MATHIAS JOHN PAUL (GB); STREET STEPHEN DEREK) 5 November 1998 (1998-11-05) * page 27; example 5 *	1,2,6-22	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IntCl.7)
			C07D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 31 March 2000	Examiner Steendijk, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 (03/02) (P44001)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 30 7996

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

31-03-2000

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0812845	A	17-12-1997	AP 717 A	04-01-1999
			AT 182150 T	15-07-1999
			AU 697684 B	15-10-1998
			AU 2487897 A	18-12-1997
			BG 101569 A	30-01-1998
			BR 9703580 A	10-11-1998
			CA 2207694 A	14-12-1997
			CN 1168376 A	24-12-1997
			CZ 9701811 A	18-03-1998
			DE 69700321 D	19-08-1999
			DE 69700321 T	04-11-1999
			EA 102 B	27-08-1998
			EP 0916675 A	19-05-1999
			ES 2134051 T	16-09-1999
			GR 3031087 T	31-12-1999
			HR 970326 A	30-06-1998
			HU 9701048 A	28-12-1998
			JP 2866841 B	08-03-1999
			JP 10081688 A	31-03-1998
			JP 11171879 A	29-06-1999
			NO 972481 A	15-12-1997
			NO 985064 A	15-12-1997
			NZ 328084 A	26-08-1998
			PL 320555 A	22-12-1997
			SG 50024 A	15-06-1998
			SI 812845 T	31-12-1999
			SK 74397 A	03-06-1998
			US 5955611 A	21-09-1999
US 3992441	A	16-11-1976	US 3843662 A	22-10-1974
			US 4124590 A	07-11-1978
			AR 214849 A	15-08-1979
			AU 6366973 A	19-06-1975
			BE 808939 A	21-06-1974
			CA 1012974 A	28-06-1977
			DE 2363786 A	11-07-1974
			ES 421767 A	01-07-1977
			FR 2211261 A	19-07-1974
			GB 1458029 A	08-12-1976
			IN 139236 A	22-05-1976
			JP 49086522 A	19-08-1974
			JP 58170756 A	07-10-1983
			JP 59024975 B	13-06-1984
			NL 7317455 A	28-06-1974
			US 4377521 A	22-03-1983
			US 4138399 A	06-02-1979

EPO FORM P0469

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 99 30 7996

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

31-03-2000

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 3992441	A		ZA	7309662 A	29-01-1975
WO 9849166	A	05-11-1998	AU	7644598 A	24-11-1998
			EP	0977756 A	09-02-2000
			HR	980222 A	28-02-1999
			NO	995211 A	25-10-1999

EPO FORM P469

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)